

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION
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REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated March 24, 2004. In view of the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

CLAIM REJECTIONS

35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 21

Claim 21 stands rejected as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,136,211 issued October 24, 2000 to *Qian et al.* (hereinafter referred to as "*Qian*").

In response, the Applicants have cancelled claim 21 without prejudice to expedite issuance of the allowable subject matter. The Applicants reserve the right to file a continuation application to prosecute the cancelled subject matter.

Claim 33

The Applicants have amended claim 33 to depend from claim 18. As claim 18, from which claim 33 depends, is patentable over the references of record, the Applicants respectfully submit that claim 33 remains allowable over the references of record.

ALLOWED CLAIMS

Applicants acknowledge and express appreciation for indication that claims 19-20 and 33-34 are allowed.

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CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

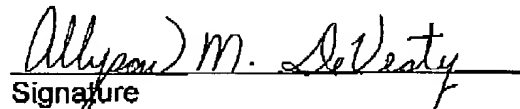
May 21, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on May 21, 2004 and is addressed to Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.



SignatureAllyson M. DeVesty

Printed Name of Person Signing5-21-04

Date of signature

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